Coastal Observation Technology System Project Summary – 2004

Project Name/Title: Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)

Date Project Initiated: October 2003

Recipient Institution: Great Lakes Commission

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Brief Project Summary: The Great Lakes Commission is leading initial development of the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), with funding through the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The GLOS is a regional node of the U.S. national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative. The GLOS will provide access to information on the climate, meteorology, chemistry, geology, biology, and human activities that affect the Great Lakes, their interconnecting waterways, the St. Lawrence River, and the coastal environment. Data, information, and knowledge about the system will be consolidated to meet the needs of resource managers, researchers, educators, commercial shippers, recreational boaters, beach users, spill responders, and homeland security interests, among others.

The design of the GLOS will be a cooperative activity of many U.S. federal and state agencies with significant input from local agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and industrial and commercial interests across the region. The development of the GLOS will be closely coordinated with Canadian federal agencies and provincial ministries.

Accomplishments to Date:

- Organized steering committee representing major interests to develop business plan.
- Identified and engaged likely regional associates.
- Coordinated planning with Canadian federal agencies and Ontario and Quebec ministries.
- Developed project Web pages.
- Conducted user needs assessments, including focus group discussions and presentations at various conferences and meetings.
- Defined data and information subsystems and funding requirements.
- Initiated consensus building on governance options for the regional association.

Current Year Objectives: The objective of the first year of the initiative is to develop a consensus of international, federal, state, provincial, municipal, academic, institutional,

nongovernmental, industrial, and commercial interests for a sustainable business model for this effort and the Regional Association that will lead it. Each of the individuals engaged in developing this consensus represents major data sources, information managers, and large user communities. The GLOS Regional Association is intended to be a vehicle for them to provide meaningful direction and sustained support for the implementation and operation of an integrated observing system for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River system. The first year accomplishments are expected to lead to the formation of a formal Regional Association, with an independent board of directors in the second year, and to a pilot demonstration project involving data and information integration over a representative area of this highly complex system.

Primary Partners:

- International Joint Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, NOAA
- U.S. National Weather Service, NOAA
- U.S. National Ocean Service, NOAA
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Great Lakes Sea Grant Network
- Great Lakes States Coastal Zone Management Programs
- Council of Great Lakes Research Managers
- The Ohio State University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Wisconsin
- Environment Canada